

PERCY'S PROMISE

A Mob of excited children poured out of Annie and Clarabel one morning, and raced down to the beach.

"They're the Vicar's Sunday School," explained Thomas. "I'm busy this evening, but the Station-Master says I can ask you to take them home."

"Of course I will," promised Percy.

The children had a lovely day. But at teatime it got very hot. Dark clouds loomed overhead. Then came lightning, thunder, and rain. The children only just managed to reach shelter before the deluge began.

Annie and Clarabel stood at the platform. The children scrambled in.

"Can we go home please, Station Master?" asked the Vicar.

The Station Master called Percy. "Take the children home quickly please," he ordered.

The rain streamed down on Percy's boiler.

"Ugh!" he shivered, and thought of his nice dry shed. Then he remembered.

"A promise is a promise," he told himself, "so here goes."

His Driver was anxious. The river was rising fast. It foamed and swirled fiercely, threatening to flood the country any minute.

The rain beat in Percy's face. "I wish I could see, I wish I could see," he complained.

They left a cutting, and found themselves in water. "Oooh my wheels!" shivered Percy. "It's cold!" as he stopped. "Ooooooooooooooshshshshshsh!" he hissed, "it's sloshing my fire."

They backed the coaches to the cutting and meanwhile the Guard had found a telephone.

He returned looking gloomy.

"We couldn't go back if we wanted," he said, "the bridge near the Junction is down."

They went to the Guards van and broke up some boxes for Percy's fire but that did not satisfy the Fireman. "I'll have some of your floor boards, as well" he said

"What! my nice floor," grumbled the Guard. "I only swept it this morning," but he found a hatchet and helped.

Soon they had plenty of wood stored in Percy's bunker. His fire burnt well now. He felt warm and comfortable again.

"Buzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz! Buzzzzzzzzzzzzzz! Buzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!"

"Oh dear!" thought Percy sadly, "Harold's come to laugh at me."

Bump! Something thudded on Percy's boiler. "Ow!" he exclaimed in a muffled voice, "that's really too bad! He needn't throw things."

His driver unwound a parachute from Percy's indignant front.

"Harold isn't throwing things at you," he laughed, "he's dropping hot drinks for us."

They all had a drink of cocoa, and felt better.

Percy had steam up now. "Peep peep! Thank you, Harold!" he whistled. "Come on, lets go."

The water lapped his wheels. "Ugh!" he shivered. It crept up and up and up. It reached his ash-pan, then it sloshed at his fire.

Percy was losing steam; but he plunged bravely on. "I promised," he panted, "I promised."

They piled his fire high with wood, and managed to keep him steaming.

"I must do it," he gasped, "I must, I must, I must."

He made a last great effort, and stood, exhausted but triumphant, on rails which were clear of the flood.

He rested to get steam back, then brought the train home.

"Three cheers for Percy!" called the Vicar, and the children nearly raised the roof!

The Fat Controller arrived in Harold. First he thanked the men.
"Harold told me you were — er — wizard, Percy. He says he
can beat you at some things ..."

Percy snorted.

"... but not at being a submarine." He chuckled. "I don't know what you've both been playing at, and I won't ask! But I do know that you're a Really Useful Engine."

"Oh Sir!" whispered Percy happily.

PERCY'S PROMISE

OPEN: New Harbour Station. AX4.

Percy is on one platform and is being watered. Thomas pulls into alongside on the other side of the platform they look to each other. Annie and Clarabel. Close on Thomas (to allow platform to be filled with children. Feature the Vicar).

Cut to wide and mix. (Annie and Clarabel at platform).

Very Dull and overcast.

There is a little engine shed close to the station and we see Percy lodged there.

Overlay rain.

CUT to Stationmaster and Percy. Stationmaster holds umbrella.

Percy exits.

CUT to Percy backing onto Annie and Clarabel.

CUT to Guard whistling and green flag.

CUT to Percy in wide he exits.

MIX.

2.

We are the other side of a cutting. This cutting is on a bend so we do not see Percy at first.

Camera is looking up line across a very large pool of water.

The whole track is flooded.

We come from CU. Pool, are to see it is raining hard to a wide shot which reveals the flooded rail. Percy comes around the cutting slowly and goes partially into the pool. (Note to SFX. _____
This part of the pool is perspex. Grooves in this perspex covered with fine tissue will allow Percy to look like he's entering real water.
Lots of steam to come from Percy).

Percy enters pool. Lots of steam.

He reverses back in same set up slowly.

Cover Percy's wet and distressed face eyes looking down.
(From this we cut back to wide to see him reverse out).

ECU Guard. Percy's Driver and Fireman. (Rain). Over and between the shoulders of Driver and Fireman.

Ease in to close on Guard.

MIX.

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3.

A pile of wood by the side of Clarabel's OPEN Guards door. It grows in size. Lock off camera.

The Guard is seen chopping wood.

The Fireman and Driver appears during these lock off shots humping wood.

CU Percy's fire burning fiercely.

CU Percy's face looking happy. Steam is around. He looks up, and suddenly his face is covered in what turns out to be a parachute.

Cut to wide to see Harold disappear. We see Percy's face covered.

His driver nearly about to remove the chute.

Another chute has landed on Annie and the Fireman and Guard are there.

There are 2 hampers 1 to each shoot clearly seen.

CU Percy's covered face. The chute is pulled off revealing his angry expression.

He looks up to try and see Harold then back to his driver.

ECU Driver laughing.

Cab shot. Drinking cocoa. MIX.

To wide to see exit.

Percy slowly goes through the water. Steam arises as we go through.

Cut to Periscope CU Percy's face. Concerned. Steam is around him in quantity. Percy is looking down and around.

Cut to reverse to see Percy exit flooded area and go off down the line.

MIX. to Ellsbridge. (Still overcast).

Percy comes to a halt.

Cut or pan to see Harold Helicopter come in and land in an adjacent field.

Cut to Percy surrounded by Kids, the Vicar.

Percy's eyes spin round as the children cheer.

Cover close on Percy looking toward Harold.

Cover close on Percy looking toward Fat Controller on Platform.

Close on Smiling Fat Controller (ECU)

Close on Percy Angry face.

Close on Harold smiling.

Cut to wide. Percy is surrounded by his admirers. He lets off some steam as we ease in on him to CU for his reaction to end line from Fat Controller. He has a flushed face. His eyes go from Fat Controller to upward.